GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:240
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gupta Shri Sudheer

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given its approval for adopting the statute of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) recently to check cross border wildlife crimes;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the names of the countries which have become members of SAWEN; and
(d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to stop illegal traffic of wildlife and wildlife crimes in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a), (b), (c), and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), AND (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.* 240 REGARDING "SOUTH ASIA WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORK" BY SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA AND SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN FOR REPLY ON 10.05.2016:

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Cabinet approved the proposal of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for adoption of the Statute of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) on 13th April 2016.

(c) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are members of SAWEN.
(d) The steps taken by government to stop illegal traffic of wildlife and wildlife crimes in the country are as follows:
1. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that monitors international trade in wildlife and its derivatives;
2. India is part of Global Wildlife Programme supported by Global Environment Facility for combating illegal wildlife trade with the support of communities;
3. Bilateral and Multilateral arrangement with other countries are in place for combating illegal trade of wildlife;
4. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act;
5. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime;
6. WCCB is assisting border agencies for combating illegal wildlife trade and is also conducting training courses for various enforcement agencies like Customs, Central Police Forces etc. for better appreciation of illegal wildlife trade.
7. Wildlife offences involving a total value of Rs. 30.00 lakhs or more have been brought under the purview of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002;
8. Collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on illegal trafficking of wildlife and its parts as well as wildlife crime to various agencies for apprehension of criminals.
9. The Bureau is making collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on illegal trafficking of wildlife and its parts as well as wildlife crime to various agencies for apprehension of criminals;
10. The Bureau is conducting joint operations with state enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals involved in illegal wildlife crime and is providing assistance to state enforcement agencies in investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime cases.
11. The Bureau has brought out Handbook for wildlife crime investigation officers on wildlife crime investigation, X-Ray Manual of wildlife products in illegal trade and Identification Manual of Wildlife Species in trade.
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